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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5785  
INFO RUCNMGH/MAGHREB COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE PRIORITY  
RUEPGCA/USEUCOM AIDES VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY

UNCLAS TUNIS 001194

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

STATE FOR PM ASSISTANT SECRETARY MARK KIMMITT  
STATE ALSO FOR NEA/FP, NEA/MAG (MNARDI, MHAYES) AND  
PM/PPA (JKNOCH, CROSATI)  
PASS DOD FOR AFRICOM SSP/SC (DCINNAMOND)

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [MARR](#) [PTER](#) [MASS](#) [KITA](#) [TS](#)  
SUBJECT: SUPPORTING TUNISIA'S COUNTER-TERRORISM EFFORT: A  
FY09 1206 PROPOSAL

REF: A. STATE 118337  
[1](#)B. PANNAMAN-CINNAMOND E-MAIL 31 NOVEMBER  
[1](#)C. STATE 84130  
[1](#)D. CINNAMOND-PANNAMAN E-MAIL OCTOBER 16

[1](#)1. (SBU) As requested in Ref A Embassy Tunis submitted an FY09 Section 1206 proposal to NEA/MAG and PM/PPA via e-mail OI November 26. The proposal titled "Tunisian Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance (ISR) Capability," seeks to provide approximately \$8 million in immediate assistance to the Tunisian Armed Forces, which have undertaken new and expanded counter-terrorism activities on Tunisia's borders to combat the threat posed by al-Qaeda in the Land of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).

[1](#)2. (SBU) Specifically, the 1206 proposal seeks to respond to Tunisian Air Force's need to conduct day/night air operations to reduce availability of the border region to al-Qaeda terrorists. In the proposal we recommend providing Tunisian helicopter units with Forward Looking Infrared Radar (FLIR), Radar Altimeters (RADAL), and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) configured for use with night vision goggles - all of which will be dedicated to supporting counter-terrorism activities.

[1](#)3. (SBU) I urge the Department and USAFRICOM to support this proposal and continue to back the Tunisian Government's efforts to combat the transnational terrorist threat posed by AQIM. OSC Tunis sent the short-form to AFRICOM Security Assistance Branch on 31 October, 2008 and the long-form on 13 November 2008.  
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